1. (Twice Amended) A resource manager operable to control allocation of a resource to competing computing processes including at least a first process and a second process, the resource manager being responsive to identification of a thread for the first process requesting allocation of the resource, when the resource is already allocated to a thread for the second process, to establish a joining function to the thread for the second process and to provide an indication to the first process of an expected time before the resource will become available determined based on a call duration value associated with the second process, the joining function being operable to notify the resource manager on termination of the thread for the second process, and the resource manager being operable in response to termination of the thread for the second process to allocate the resource to the thread for the first process.

10. (Twice Amended) A resource manager operable to control allocation of a resource to competing computing processes including at least a first process and a second process, the resource manager comprising:

means responsive to identification of a thread for the first process requesting allocation of the resource, when the resource is already allocated to a thread for the second process, to establish a joining function to the thread for the second process and to provide an indication to the first process of an expected time before the resource will become available determined based on a call duration value associated with the second process; and

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

means responsive to the joining function notifying the resource manager on termination of the thread for the second process to allocate the resource to the thread for the first process.

11. (Twice Amended) A computer software resource manager on a data carrier, the resource manager being operable to control allocation of a resource to competing computing processes including at least a first process and a second process, the resource manager being responsive to identification of a thread for the first process requesting allocation of the resource, when the resource is already allocated to a thread for the second process, to establish a joining function to the thread for the second process and to provide an indication to the first process of an expected time before the resource will become available determined based on a call duration value associated with the second process, the joining function being operable to notify the resource manager on termination of the thread for the second process, and the resource manager being operable in response to termination of the thread for the second process to allocate the resource to the thread for the first process.

12. (Twice Amended) A telecommunications apparatus, comprising:

at least one telephony resource for connection to a telecommunications network; and

a resource manager for controlling allocation of the telephony resource to competing computing processes including at least a first process and a second process, the resource manager being responsive to identification of a thread for the first process

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HENDERSON
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DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com